

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /101 W

-----004540 071428Z /43

R 071200Z MAR 78

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2853

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS DURBAN 156

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: HAFEEJEE INQUEST

REF: DURBAN A-12 AND PREVIOUS

1. DURING FIRST WEEK OF INQUEST INTO DEATH OF DR. HOSEN HAFEEJEE, DURBAN DENTIST WHO DIED IN POLICE CUSTODY AUGUST 4, 1977 (77 DURBAN A-88) , SECURITY POLICEMEN DENIED HAVING ASSAULTED HIM AND ASSERTED HAFEEJEE WAS A SUBSERSIVE WORKING ACTIVELY UNDERGROUND TO OVERTHROW THE SAG.

2. POLICE OFFICERS WHO ARRESTED HAFEEJEE MORNING OF AUGUST 3 STATE THEY BRIEFLY STRUGGLED WITH HIM BEFORE FORCING HIM INTO A POLICE VEHICLE. AT SUBSEQUENT INTERROGATION, POLICE TESFITIFE THEY SHOWED HAFEEJEE "INCRIMINATING DOCUMENTS" IN HIS HANDWRITING TAKEN EARLIER FROM HIS RESIDENCE. POLICE ASSERTED DOCUMENTS PROVIDED GUIDELINES FOR THE MANUFACTURE AND USE OF HOME-MADE BOMBS TO PROMOTE REVOLUTION AND A "SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC"

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IN SOUTH AFRICA. ACCORDING TO POLICE, HAFEEJEE ADMITTED HIS COMPLICITY IN THESE ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEERED TO GIVE INFORMATION AND TAKE POLICE TO DURBAN LOCATIONS WHERE MEETINGS OF OTHERS INVOLVED HAD TAKEN PLACE. AT ONE TIME DURING SUBSEQUENT TOUR HAFEEJEE ALLEGEDLY REFUSED TO RE-ENTER POLICE VEHICLE AND ANOTHER MINOR STURGGLE ENSUED

SECURITY POLICE OFFICERS (CAPT.

P.L. DU TOIT AND LT. J.B. TAYLOR) STATED THEY WERE IN HAFEEJEE'S PRESENCE FROM HIS ARREST UNTIL HE WAS LATER PLACED IN THE CELL WHERE HE WAS FOUND DEAD. OFFICERS STATED THEIR TWO TUSSELES WERE THE ONLY TIMES HAFEEJEE COULD HAVE BEEN INJURED, BUT THAT HE HAD NOT COMPLAINED TO THEM OF INJURY OR PAIN. FURTHER, THEY CLAIMED HIS DEATH WAS A SERIOUS SETBACK TO INVESTIGATIONS INTO "A MATTER WITH NATION-WIDE IMPLICATIONS", IMPLYING IT WAS IN THE POLICE'S INTEREST TO KEEP HIM ALIVE.

3. STATE PATHOLOGIST I. GORDON TESTIFIED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME 40 BRUISES ON HAFEEJEE'S BODY PROBABLY CAUSED BY "THE APPLICATION OF FORCE", THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS "CONSISTENT WITH HANGING". HE COULD OFFER NO EXPLANATION FOR THE CAUSE OF BRUISES, STATING HE HAD NOT SEEN ANYTHING SIMILAR DURING HIS ENTIRE MEDICAL CAREER. HE STATED THE INJURIES WERE CAUSED APPROXIMATELY 4-12 HOURS BEFORE HAFEEJEE'S DEATH (4 A.M. ON AUGUST 4)

WHICH INDICATES THEY OCCURRED DURING THE PERIOD HE WAS IN DU TOIT'S AND TAYLOR'S PRESENCE. HEARING HAS BEEN ADJOURNED UNTIL MARCH 8.

4. INQUEST HAS CAPTURED WIDE MEDIA ATTENTION ON THE REEF AND IN NATAL, AND SEVERAL DURBAN PAPERS PRINTED GRAPHIC PICTURES OF HAFEEJEE'S HANGED AND BRUISED BODY.

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5. BOTH THE HAFEEJEE FAMILY AND POLICE ARE REPRESENTED BY LEADING JURISTS AND HAVE BROUGHT IN OUTSIDE MEDICAL EXPERTS TO ADVISE ON CAUSE OF DEATH AND INJURIES TO BODY. IN ADDITION, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL LONDON OFFICE SENT LORD REGINALD AVEBURY TO OBSERVE INQUEST AND TO WRITE A FORMAL REPORT. CONOFF HAS ATTENDED INQUEST AS WELL.

FARBER

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